

G-2 REPORT

41 2048-185

MAY 13

RECEIVED

SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3428 Date April 20, 1925

Replying to No. Date MAY 13 1925

(REPLACE)

3030: Chief racial and tribal elements of national population.

There are no racial differences really, although Argentina is made up of a complex population. Nearly one half of the inhabitants are foreign born, and most of them are from the Latin countries.

The Caucasian race forms the vast majority of the population of Argentina. The white population is descended from Spaniards, Italians, French, English, Germans, Basques and Irish. By the intermarriages of these races among themselves and with negroes and Indians, a mixed race known as Argentines and sometimes called Americans has been produced. Some make the distinction that only those of Spanish or Spanish-Portuguese descent should be classed as Argentines. As a matter of fact there are many prominent families of so-called Argentines whose ancestors were English, French and German, and quite a few of African and Indian descent, but all children born in Argentina are Argentine citizens.

The present inhabitants are of a less homogenous character than those of the other Hispano-American States. In recent years immigrants have flocked in large numbers to Argentina not only from Spain, but also from the British Isles, Germany, Italy and other parts of Europe, and these fresh arrivals have not yet had time to merge in a single nationality with the earlier Spanish settlers. In many places they are massed in independent ethnical communities, speaking their own languages, following their own religions, customs and traditions and keeping socially aloof from the indigenous Spanish-speaking inhabitants. The great majority of the immigrants come from the south European countries of Neo-Latin speech.

The real aristocrat is the descendant of moneyed ancestors who prides himself more upon the accomplishments of the past than upon anything his family or race have done in modern times.

The negro element, never numerically strong, appears to have been completely absorbed. There is very little trace of African blood.

In the northern provinces of Argentina there still subsist some fairly large native settlements of Indians which receive but scant consideration from the Government. The influx of Indian blood in the masses and also to a very considerable extent in the upper classes---cannot fail to leave a permanent trace in the Argentine type, notwithstanding the steady current of immigration.

Strictly speaking, therefore, there are marked racial differences, but within a generation or so the strains intermingle and no matter what their diversity, the result is an Argentine.

2030: Chief racial and tribal

elements of national population.

The surrounding races are all of Spanish-American, Indian and negro origin, with the exception of Brazil which is Portuguese. No particular animosities exist, and the common language is Spanish.

Cordial relations exist with all other Latin American countries and extremely cordial intellectual and material ties with Spain. Relations with other races are friendly without distinction.

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MAY 15 1925

SUBJECT... POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS... ARGENTINA...

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)-----

From... ARGENTINA-----

No. 3429----- Date April 20-----, 19 25

Replying to No.----- Date MAY 13 1925-----, 19
RECEIVED 4/2 W.D.C.

(ADD) 2050: Emigration and Immigration.

National assimilation of immigrants, social and industrial.

The present inhabitants are of a less homogenous character than those of the other Hispano-American States. In recent years immigrants have flocked in large numbers to Argentina not only from Spain, but also from the British Isles, Germany, Italy and other parts of Europe, and these fresh arrivals have not yet had time to merge in a single nationality with the earlier Spanish settlers. In many places they are massed in independent ethnical communities, speaking their own languages, following their own religions, customs and traditions and keeping socially aloof from the indigenous Spanish-speaking inhabitants. The great majority of the immigrants come from the south European countries of Neo-Latin speech.

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MAY 15 1935

SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS---ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3430 Date April 20 19 35

Replying to No. Date MAY 13 1935

(REPLACE)

2010: Population---General.

Classified statistics according to sex. Total population.

In the last National Census, 1914, the following data was given regarding the population of Argentina:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
Argentines	2,753,214	2,774,071	5,527,285
Foreigners	<u>1,473,809</u>	<u>884,143</u>	<u>2,357,952</u>
	4,227,023	3,658,214	7,885,237

In 1933 the National Statistical Department made what was claimed to be a dependable estimate of the country's population, and its distribution. The calculations which produced the figures submitted were based upon the results of the last national census. According to this official estimate the population of the city of Buenos Aires is over 1,800,000, while that of the Republic is given as over nine and a half millions. The official figures are reproduced below:

<u>Provinces and Territories</u>	<u>Inhabitants.</u>
Federal Capital	1,811,475
Buenos Aires	2,501,093
Santa Fe	1,122,927
Entre Rios	530,927
Corrientes	408,093
Cordoba	896,138
San Luis	137,674
Sgo. del Estero	321,891
Mendoza	333,379
San Juan	140,838
La Rioja	89,121
Catamarca	114,553
Tucuman	380,482
Salta	154,257
Jujuy	80,023
Misiones	69,422
Formosa	24,136
Chaco	58,160
Los Andes	2,929
Pampa	142,043
Neuquen	38,085
Rio Negro	52,440
Chubut	32,885
Santa Cruz	12,581
Tierra del Fuego	2,592
Total.....	9,458,092

Binding Margin.

(REPLACE)

2010: Population--General.

Average density: most thickly populated centers.

Nearly one quarter of the entire population of Argentina lives in the two cities of Buenos Aires and Rosario. The forty-nine cities and towns of more than 12,000 inhabitants have a total of 3,500,000 inhabitants or 40% of the total population of the country.

In addition to these there are 114 towns with populations between 4000 and 12,000. Practically all of the towns of over 5000 inhabitants have paved streets, and all form automobile centers with garages and supply stations.

The density of the population according to province is:

Tucuman	14.4	per	sq.	km.
Bs. Aires	6.8	"	"	"
Sta. Fe	6.8	"	"	"
E. Rios	5.7	"	"	"
Cordoba	4.6	"	"	"
Corrientes	4.1	"	"	"
Santiago				
del Estero	2.5	"	"	"
San Luis	1.6	"	"	"
San Juan	1.4	"	"	"
Mendoza	1.9	"	"	"

The rest of the provinces have less than 1.9 per 1000 and all the territories with the exception of Misiones have less than 1 per 1000, while it has 1.8.

Argentina stands about No. 13 in population of the world but its density is only 2.7 inhabitants per sq. km. as stated above.

Principal occupational groupings.

The principal occupational groups are stock-raising (cattle and sheep) and cereals.

The most thickly populated sections in this order are: east, center, west, north and south and the increase in the populations have been in the same order.

The increases by percentages are as follows:

1816-1837	27.0%
1837-1860	79.3%
1860-1869	51.2%
1869-1895	212.0%
1895-1914	101.1%

Percentage---urban and country.

		<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
National Census	1895	45%	55%
"	1914	57%	43%

The white race forms the intelligent class, and lives chiefly in towns and cities, while those of African and Indian descent inhabit the rural districts, and furnish the bulk of workmen employed on the large agricultural and cattle ranches throughout the country.

The "mestizos" are most numerous in the towns, the middle class generally being employed as shopkeepers and mechanics, the lower class as servants and day laborers.

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WAS DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS-----ARGENTINA-----
----- (FOR INFORMATION DIGEST) -----

From ARGENTINA-----

No. 3431----- Date April 20-----, 19 25

Replying to No.----- Date MAY 13 1925-----, 19

(REPLACE)

2040: Social and Intellectual

Classes and groups.

The stock or mixture of stocks from which each class is descended is as follows:

The upper class is of pure Spanish or Spanish-Indian descent.

The middle class is identical, and has also Spanish-negro and Spanish Indian descendants.

The lower class comprises Indian-negro crosses and Indians, mulattos and half-breeds, but the majority are neo-Europeans.

All these people speak the same language---Spanish.

The governing class prior to 1916 was the wealthier so-called aristocratic class which, politically Conservative was "in" and governed the Republic. Since 1916 the Radicals have governed politically, but, socially so far have not made much progress.

The stock from which the "radical" party's members has sprung is neo-European.

The nation is not homogenous, strictly speaking.

The part taken in national life by the different classes theoretically and practically is: theoretically the upper class takes no part. Actually some of the Cabinet Ministers belong to the wealthy upper class, and are descendants of forbears who took a prominent part in history or society in Argentina.

There is a large middle class, but as in all other countries today, its importance is not great. It is crushed between the plutocracy and labor classes. It is completely without organization, and its interests are practically at the mercy of the other two classes.

The following percentages as to racial composition were given in the year 1914:

native 70%
foreign 30%
Indian: less than 1/4 %
negro: less than 1/3 %

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SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS---ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3432 Date April 21, 19 25

Replying to No. Date MAY 13 1925 19

(ADD)

2040: Social and Intellectual

Classes and groups.

Educational opportunities and intellectual advancement, as related to classes and groups.

Regarding the development of the arts, music, painting, portraiture, ceramics, architecture, landscape gardening, etc. the following is culled from various authorities:

Music:

Argentine music is in an embryonic state as yet. The few Argentine composers of any importance whatsoever have no international reputation, and have either limited themselves to improving upon or arranging the national airs, or are more or less servile imitators of the various German, French, Russian or Italian schools.

In the last year though there has been marked tendency to create a "native" school of music, using musical themes sung and played by the Indians and "gauchos".

Painting.

An annual salon is held and prizes are given for the three best works. There are a surprising number of painters of every conceivable school. Portraiture is also indulged in to a considerable extent, however as yet no universally considered masterpieces have been evolved.

Ceramics.

The native pottery of the Calchaqui Indians is quite remarkable, and the art is also practised in various regions to the north of the republic.

Architecture.

The architecture of Buenos Aires has obeyed the impulses aroused by the ideas of its inhabitants or the invasion of new peoples.

The tent of the savage was transformed into a hut, then into a house of mud and unbaked adobe, then came a house with tiles from the north of Spain, and after that the Arab flat roof. Later with the tyranny, the house with a flat roof surrounded by grilles was decided on.

With increased immigration architects appeared. The buildings in the city of Buenos Aires and in the larger towns doubled their floors, and were beautified. Suburban architecture was modernized by the tramways, and during the enthusiasm which preceded the financial crisis of 1890 houses were built with three floors. But the municipality in Buenos Aires restrained this tendency; the curb-roof remained stationary.

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(ADD)

3040: Social and Intellectual

Classes and groups.

Educational opportunities and intellectual advancement as related to classes and groups.

Lately the various styles of the epochs of Louis XIII and Louis XI have been much used and abused. This last has been the origin of buildings whose facades are qualified as veritable extravaganzas.

The latest fashion in architectural styles is the Spanish Renaissance, where the value of rich Alhambresque decorations in the entrance doorways and windows, and the patios or courts is enhanced by contrast with the plain masonry of walls and towers.

In order to encourage the beautifying of the town, the municipal council some years ago voted an order by which the architect of the edifice which has the most beautiful facade is given a prize consisting of a gold medal and a diploma, and the proprietor is granted exoneration from the payments of the tax on buildings. (Source: "Baedeker of the Argentine Republic" by Alberto B. Martinez.)

Landscape gardening.

Landscape gardening has made much progress in recent years. Palermo Park is said to rival the best in the world, and considering the absolutely flat ground marvels have been accomplished. The public plazas throughout the city of Buenos Aires are treated in quite an interesting manner---taking into consideration, as remarked above, the lack of picturesque surroundings to work on.

At many of the big estancias, and country houses throughout the country there are some very fine landscape gardens. Needless to say, of course, they are not comparable with anything similar in the United States or Europe.

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RESTRICTED
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SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA-----

No. 3435----- Date April 24, 1935

Replying to No.----- Date-----, 19

RECEIVED G/2 W.O., MAY 27 1925
3100: General Characteristics of

Population.

National and racial traditions and customs, effects on public and private life.

The Argentines are prejudiced against divorce, against the legal and political freedom of women, etc.

Under some concepts they are narrow-minded, but under others, considering racial origin, they are extremely broad-minded. Religion, for instance.

They are faintly prejudiced against foreigners, but they seldom show active hostility.

They are decidedly tolerant when people run counter to their prejudices, and are also tolerant of the ideas of people who differ from them.

As a rule the Argentines eat too much, but are not intemperate in drinking. They exceed themselves in the pursuit of pleasure, but seldom overwork.

Progressiveness, industrial, intellectual and social.

The Argentine's life flows along in smooth easy channels, with little to worry him except the problem of amusement and sufficient excitement, this refers of course to the leisured class in particular. They are great lovers of sport, horse racing being the favorite of all classes.

The family tie appears to be stronger in the Argentine than perhaps in any other land, and the greatest affection prevails among members of the household.

Besides being progressive they are also aimable and receptive in their general attitude.

Mental and moral factors in relation to psychological influences, constancy to ideals.

In general, the Argentine is deceitful and loves to dissimulate and take people in. On the other hand they are kindly, usually peaceful, but are easily aroused. They are also insolent on very little provocation.

They are very extravagant, and as a nation and as individuals find it extremely difficult to live within their resources.

Their ideas on patriotism are considered by the outsider to be but an artificial sentiment fomented by the Government, and excited by environment. Needless to say they would never admit such to be the case, nevertheless in 9 cases out of 10 they certainly would not hesitate to sell their birthright

2100: General Characteristics of

Population.

Mental and moral factors in relation to psychologic influences, consistency to ideals.

for a mess of pottage----patriotism would be no deterrent.

The higher ranks of Argentine society appear to have inherited the formal and unbending methods of their Castilian ancestors. They are not at all industrious. Although mentally lazy, they enjoy intellectual conversation and they like literature, art and music.

According to C.O. Bunge ("Juventud America") indolence is the supreme characteristic of the Spanish American.

He makes the following deductions:

Inactivity	}	Indolence
Undisciplined		
Frivolous		
Inconstant		
Lying		
"Caudillismo"		
(Important		
role given		
to leadership)		
Melancholy		
Indifference		

The Argentines have the quality of pity for humans, but for animals it is very rudimentary.

They are not notably just when it does not suit their interests. Nor are they scrupulously honest. They can generally be expected to cheat, simply for the love of cheating or in order to gain their ends or for profit.

They have no particular code of honor, and do not possess the American or Anglo-Saxon sense of "fairplay".

They are merciful if their emotionalism is touched.

Probably the outstanding trait due to national experience is a very sincere pride in everything Argentine, for these people feel that they have achieved a great deal in a very short time.

They have no particular code of honor, and do not possess the American or Anglo-Saxon sense of "fairplay".

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SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS ARGENTINE
(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3436 Date April 24, 1925

Replying to No. Date 19

RECEIVED G/2 W.D. MAY 27 1925

2110: Physical and Mental Characteris-

tics.

Applied to principal elements of population--racial and tribal.

Boys and girls pass from childhood to youth at the following ages:

Girls: from the ages of 10 to 14.

Boys: " " " " 14 " 16

The age at which they reach maturity----legal age for both men and women is 22.

The Argentines are particularly susceptible to suggestion. Social life, customs, etc. are all modelled on suggestions and examples from abroad. Broadly speaking they are particularly liable to mass suggestion.

The forms of nervous derangement most prevalent are sexual mania, religious mania and the mania of-persecution. Generally speaking the people are also subject to hysteria and psychosis.

The Argentine are easily led and easily swayed by words, but the effect vanishes very quickly.

There are many cases of sudden and violent insanity, but it is doubtful if any generalization can be made on the subject. Lust murders are not uncommon.

The Argentines are imitative, not inventive or original. In general they are very self-reliant; they are shrewd, inclined to be treacherous, volatile and wilful.

Natural intelligence and faculties of perception.

The national intelligence is of a very high order indeed, but due to natural indolence very little is accomplished.

Argentine "esprit" was defined by C.O. Bunge in his book "Nuestra America" (Ensayo de Psicología Social) as follows:

"It is not divine imagination, intellectual faculty, which is hard working par excellence; it is emptiness in the brain, tiredness in the breast and rapidity in the tongue."

In the opinion of the writer this judgment is far too severe----there is no doubt of the native intelligence of the Argentines, and the fact of their very quickness and brightness tends to make them superficial in all things.

In comparison with the English, the Argentine is quicker, though not so thorough or painstaking; he is more intellectually inclined than the American, but is not practical. He compares favorably with the Spaniard, but has a lot to learn from the French artistically, scientifically and practically.

Binding Margin.

3110: Physical and Mental Characteristics

Natural Intelligence and faculties of perception (Cont'd).

The Argentines are not satisfied to take things as they are without investigation, they are very inquisitive.

They are of an inquiring turn of mind in the sciences, but they do not apply themselves in order to satisfy their curiosity and doubts. They are carelessly and idly inquisitive.

They are not efficient in the American sense, or in the British one of worrying through somehow. But they are smart, and get things done well without worrying much about the cost. Thus they depend largely on foreign energy, enterprise and capital for most things. They waste natural products, physical energy, work and time without any compunction whatsoever.

A salient characteristic of the Argentine is a desire, not only to learn from the United States and Europe, but to carry to the farthest pitch of perfection every institution begun, whether public or private, and to surpass their model.

Material prosperity has certainly overwhelmed many virtues and inherited characteristics.

Moral stamina and fortitude.

Considering ethics as their rules of conduct and morals their private code coincides outwardly with the public code, but all kinds of liberties are taken privately. This variance is understood and accepted by the people.

The Argentines are hypocritical inasmuch as they profess to a higher character and code of ethics than they really have. But, it cannot be said that they are so in the Anglo-Saxon acceptance of the term. It is more the idea of "laissez faire" and not taking trouble over things, and also it is more convenient to simulate, than to make any effort.

The sense of right and wrong among the men is not well defined, and it may therefore be said that their morals are not good. Indeed the sense of right and wrong does not enter into their idea of good morals. Outward appearances are important, and their standard of virtue is below that found in the United States.

On the other hand the morality among the women is as high as that of the man is low. The Argentine woman is a good mother, a faithful wife and is devoted to charity.

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NOT RECLASSIFIED

SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS---ARGENTINA
(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3437

Date

April 24

1925

Replying to No.

Date

RECEIVED 8/2 W.D. MAY 27 1925

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3130: Amusements and Recreation.

Chief forms of individual and public entertainment.

The principal amusements are theatres, cinemas, dances, parties and receptions. For men the principal pastime is gambling. The gambling instinct is very strong in the Argentine especially when of Spanish colonial descent, and the form it takes is often frivolous and reckless. According to Georges Clemenceau in "Characteristics of people" he noted: "I have often traveled on the train with provincial senators or Deputies of Argentina, and have been amused while marvelling at the feverish zest with which richly dressed and pompous looking men have staked large sums, lands, houses and cattle on such childish forms of play as cutting the cards for the highest number of spots.

In summer the wealthy class leaves the cities for the mountains or for the sea-side, and the men spend all their time gambling at the roulette tables. Gambling on the races and on the National lottery is also popular with all classes.

It is unusual to hold fairs. They have no gatherings like the Church social in America.

Their particular tastes at the moving picture theatres are American films.

At the theatres opera is the great favorite, and Spanish and French comedies and dramas, and all kinds of music are much liked.

In spring and summer a few lawn parties called "garden parties" are held.

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2130: Amusements and Recreation.

Attitude and love of physical games and sports.

Sport is taking an increasingly preponderant part in the lives of the Argentines during the last few years. It is thought that sport has about as much importance now in the life of the average Argentine as in that of the American.

Various authorities are of the opinion that this sincere and ardent devotion to sport in all its forms will be the salvation of the Argentine youth. Statistics showed a few years ago that the native race was dwindling, enfeebled, and had a short average duration of life. Its youth was, and still is to a large extent vicious, marries late, and does not increase in anything like the same proportion as the Italian section of the community.

However, sport has given the race a new lease of life, the young men are being strengthened and invigorated, and it is predicted that these beneficial effects will gradually alter their physique and even their psychology in a large measure.

One of Argentina's great national sports is football. Only a relatively few years ago the English who played football in this country were considered as lunatics, whose mania took the form of kicking a ball about, but at the present time the enthusiasts of the game number hundreds of thousands throughout the country.

The Argentines usually excel in any sport they take up, and football is no exception.

Every Sunday during the season matches take place in the newly built stadium of the River Plate Club, the seating capacity of which is about 40,000. In addition, matches take place in hundreds of clubs and fields throughout the country.

Participation in international games and sports.

Under date of December 31, 1923, the Executive Power issued a decree communicating decision regarding participation of the Argentine sportsmen in the Olympic Games held in Paris from January to July 1924.

The sum of \$350,000 was appropriated to defray expenses, and an Argentine Olympic Games Committee appointed, composed of five members, to attend to organization and all other matters connected with the Argentine participants.

By defeating France on July 13, 1924 by 15 goals to 2 the Argentine Polo Team won the Olympic championship, and its four men of three races, welded into a cohesive and unbeatable combination rested on their laurels after four consecutive victories.

Argentine sharpshooters also distinguished themselves at the Olympic Games, and at a competition held at Reims.

The Argentine tennis players, scullers, chessplayers and athletes of varied activities were all beaten, but not ignominiously so.

2130: Amusements and Recreation.

Propensity for touring and travel.

Very few Argentines travel at home for pleasure. Only sheer necessity drives them out of Buenos Aires into the country or other cities. The wealthy Argentines travel much abroad, foreigners are always coming and going, and even the middle-class Argentines in general manage to make at least one trip to Europe in a life-time. Travel to other South American countries or to the United States is not indulged in much as yet.

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SUBJECT POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS---ARGENTINA-----

----- (FOR INFORMATION DIGEST) -----

From ARGENTINA-----

No. 3438----- Date April 25-----, 1925

Replying to No.----- Date MAY 27 1925 19

2140: National Aspirations.Attitude towards other people and governments.

United States: The United States is very popular, and Americans are well liked among the Argentines. There is a slight element of jealousy of the United States because of her dominant position and power which eclipses that of Argentina.

Brazil: Argentina is extremely jealous of Brazil, whose progress has been almost as rapid as her own. In addition to this jealousy and a keen commercial rivalry, there is a feeling of contempt for Brazil for racial reasons, and the latter is often referred to as a "country of niggers".

Chile: Chile and Argentina are very friendly and have been holding a love feast for some time. The two countries have possibly combined to determine their policy as the two leading Latin American neutrals in respect to peace and the League of Nations.

France: Argentina admires and loves France as being the epitome of her ideals of culture and luxury.

Great Britain: Argentina is friendly to Great Britain and admires her, but does not care much for and is not temperamentally in sympathy with the English people.

The attitude of her neighbors towards Argentina can be expressed as follows:

For a long time the peoples who compose the South American family lived separately from one another, regarding each other with jealousy and mistrust, unless they were openly trying to destroy each other. But that was due in several cases to the great distances which separated them, to the insufficient means of communication which were at their disposal for them to mix, and to get to know each other; and in other cases to political reasons originating in pretensions to military preponderance, or to questions over the boundaries of the country inherited from the mother-country.

At the present time it is believed that as the greater part of the boundary questions have been settled, many antagonisms and hatreds have disappeared, and except for the practically unavoidable Latin tendency to envy the greater, richer and more important individual or state, Argentina is regarded with friendliness by all her neighbors. Brazil is the nation with which rivalry is keenest at time of writing, but it is a passive not active rivalry.

3140: National Aspirations.

Attitude towards other people and governments.

Argentina has had very few wars. The last one was against Paraguay in 1865-1870, and they were not the aggressors. Argentina has never been badly whipped.

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SUBJECT--POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From--ARGENTINA

No. 3439

Date

April 25

, 1935

Replying to No.

Date

RECEIVED G/2 W.D. MAY 27 1935

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2300: Home Environment and Living

Conditions.

Character and standards of family life, moral and social influence on the people.

Considerable control is exercised over the individual by the head of the family. Usually the families are very united; not only in theory but in practice as well, the head of the family is omnipotent.

The Argentines are not hospitable in the American or English sense, and only entertain formally. The majority would never think of asking outsiders to stay with them. Such invitations are very exceptional.

The opportunities of the average individual to see people outside his own family are many. Comparing social intercourse in Argentina with customs in the States, it might be said that in all classes of society meetings or parties are of a more formal nature here.

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4-1 1925 2048-185

SUBJECT... POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From... ARGENTINA

No. 3440 Date April 27, 1925

Replying to No. Date 19

RECEIVED G/2 V.D. MAY 27 1925

3210: Living Conditions--Material
Comfort. Character of housing facilities.

The surroundings of the average individual among each class are as follows:

Upper classes: urban and rural. They reside in great luxury, live in indolence, and work little or not at all, life meaning but the pursuit of pleasure.

Middle classes: urban and rural. The men are professional and business men, and their work or incomes provide fairly comfortable homes for the women whose lives are mostly idle and useless.

Lower classes: urban and rural. Surroundings are very bad indeed. Living accommodation is scarce, and of a very inferior kind. Among the laboring classes usually families live in one room in a tenement house crowded with similar families. The same class of people in the States, day laborers, chauffeurs, craftsmen, mechanics, etc. have their own home or house with comfortable appliances and cleanliness.

In August 1923 the Municipal Council of the City of Buenos Aires gave its sanction to a contract entered into with the "Compañía de Construcciones Modernas" whereby that company undertook to construct 10,000 dwelling houses each consisting of five rooms, kitchen and bathroom. According to the contract 1,000 of these houses were to be erected each year on land belonging to the company within the Municipal boundary, with the stipulation that it would not be more than four squares distant from a tramway line or from a railway station.

It was further stipulated that the order of preference was to be decided by drawings amongst the employees and workmen whose earnings did not exceed \$400 per month. Preference was also to be accorded applicants with the largest families. The price fixed for the house was \$13,750 m/n to be paid for at the rate of \$85 m/n per month, this monthly payment comprising both amortisation and interest.

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ditions.

2200: Home Environment and Living

Treatment and respect for womankind.

Generally speaking the women are respected, and certainly more so than in the past. In this as in other matters, Argentine mentality has undergone a profound transformation in recent years.

The women do manual labor only to a very small extent. Not at all in comparison with Chile and Paraguay.

The general attitude towards woman and her place, according to a newspaper article published some time ago was as follows:

"Any movement in Argentina tending towards the emancipation of women would have to be prefaced by a widespread educational movement based on a fuller recognition of the equality of the sexes in daily life.

"It is one of the great little things that sets the keynote of the nation; and while in Buenos Aires the segregation of the sexes is nominally general, women cannot help it if they are regarded as inferiors, and even as vassals to a certain extent."

41 20/8-183-16

ARGENTINA (Population and Social Conditions)

Subject: Progressiveness.

The Argentine national character bears the impress of Spanish traditions, and the conservative tendencies of the Spaniards still militate against rapid evolution of civilization in the country. The provincial inhabitants cling to the customs of their forefathers with persistent disregard to the benefits of more advanced ideas. The Argentine has a dislike to close attention to detail in public and private life.

This characteristic is also noticeable in that the leading industries of the country are to a great extent run by foreigners, and not by natives as the natives are not temperamentally adapted to commercial life.

The same tendency is apparent in the government and the social life of the nation.

The middle class does not constitute the bulk of the population, and a large percentage of the people are ignorant, and almost illiterate, and until recently there has been little widespread citizen interest or an articulate public opinion. The government is largely in the hands of professional lawyer politicians identified closely with large land-owning families. This condition however, is being slowly remedied now by an increased interest in popular education.

Inherent attitude toward foreigners.

Argentina appreciates the fact that she needs more immigration in order to build up the country, but inwardly she resents foreigners coming to the country and running her industries.

The Argentine is inclined to be vain and egotistical in his attitude towards foreigners. He loves to dress well, and spends a lot of money on show---more than his income warrants, and it hurts his pride when foreigners are more able to make a better showing than himself.

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Population and Social Conditions)

Subject: Population---General.

DEC 10 1935

The National Statistical Department estimates that the population of Argentina will exceed at the close of 1935, 10,000,000 inhabitants. The first census of the country was made in 1869 when the population of the country was 1,877,490, and this represents an increase of over 8,000,000 or a percentage of more than 500%.

From 1857 to 1924 about five and one half millions of immigrants entered the country all of whom were of a white European race, and it has been an aspiration of this country to keep the race white and immigration of colored races is not encouraged.

Argentina has vast tracts of agricultural lands and immigrants have hoped to be able to settle on them and gain a better living than was afforded them in their countries of origin. People of other professions and trades have been encouraged by the better outlook for them in a new country. During the same period there has been considerable emigration from the country, and there has been an appreciable surplus in favor of Argentina. From 1871 to 1880 immigration has only been 85,123 greater than emigration. This is explained by the revolutions of 1874 and 1880, numerous provincial uprisings, perpetual political agitations, epidemics of cholera and yellow fever, and various other things which caused a state of unrest in the country. From 1881-1890 the increase in difference of immigration and emigration rose to 637,667, and from 1891-1900 it declined to 319,882 on account of the political crises, and the fears of a war between Argentina and Chile over the boundary which existed at that time. From 1901 until 1910 the country was relatively prosperous and the increase rose to 1,230,222, but from 1911 until 1920 it was only 269,694 which represented the war period and post-war period. From 1921 until 1923 inclusive, the increase has been 338,270, and this increase is similar to that of 1901-1910.

A large majority of immigrants have established themselves in the cities or near thickly populated centers. The causes of this are the best agricultural lands in Argentina are owned in large estates and are unavailable, for transportation facilities in many parts of the country are inadequate. Furthermore, the climatic conditions are more favorable in some parts of the country than in others; work is more easily obtained in the cities, and immigrants have more security near the cities.

Regarding the racial components of the population, the proportion of Spaniards and Italians head the list, and the French, who up to recently constituted quite a large section of the immigrants have been losing ground, and now the Germans have taken precedence.

During the last five years since the war the gain in Italian immigration to Argentina has been 158,615. This represents 99% more than the Spanish.

From: M.A. Buenos Aires Report #3547

Date: Nov. 5/35.

ARGENTINA (Population and Social Conditions)

Subject: Population.

Population of cities of over 5000.

<u>Cities</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Population.</u>
Buenos Aires	Buenos Aires	1,900,000
La Plata	" "	153,243
Bahia Blanca	" "	80,000
Mar del Plata	" "	40,000
Pergamino	" "	53,000
25 de Mayo	" "	31,000
Capilla de Nuestro Señor	" "	10,500
Ayacucho	" "	9,000
Ciudad de Cordoba	Cordoba	186,000
Rosario	Santa Fé	269,459
Santa Fé	" "	108,847
Mendoza	" "	86,382
Salta	" "	34,374
Corrientes	Corrientes	32,600
Paraná	Entre Rios	53,464
San Juan	San Juan	20,000
San Luis	San Luis	24,108
Tucuman	Tucuman	109,318
S. del Estero	S. del Estero	29,500
Jujuy	Jujuy	14,117
Catamarca	Catamarca	14,973
La Rioja	La Rioja	9,000
Santa Rosa	La Pampa	9,000
Viedma	Rio Negro	5,000

A verage density of population per province.

<u>Province</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Date of Estimate</u>	<u>Density per Sq.km.</u>
Buenos Aires	3,565,204	Dec.31,1933	8.7
Catamarca	106,456	" " "	.001
Cordoba	793,000	" " "	4.710
Corrientes	366,570	" " "	4.119
Entre Rios	561,960	Jan. 1924	7.404
Jujuy			1.948
La Rioja	84,500	Dec.31,1923	.977
Mendoza	347,736	" " "	2.083
Salta	161,768	1924	1.278
San Juan	128,993	1924	1.446
San Luis	128,993	" " "	1.676
Santa Fé	1,008,423	" " "	7.480
Sgo. del Estero	313,960	" " "	2.155
Tucuman	292,348	" "1923	1.082
Chaco	70,000	" "1924	.707
Chubut	30,118	" " "	1.325
Formosa	White 18,000	" " "	.3
	Indians 35,000		
La Pampa	122,535	" " "	.849
Misiones	53,563	" " "	1.797
Neuquen	28,866	" " "	.299
Rio Negro	46,602	" " "	.231
Santa Cruz	17,925	" " "	.073
Tierra del Fuego	2,548	" " "	.113

From:M.A.Buenos Aires

Report #3547

Date:Nov.5/1925.

G-2 REPORT

41 2048486

31

SUBJECT--GEOGRAPHIC-----ARGENTINA

------(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)-----

From--ARGENTINA

No. 3466 Date July 10, 1925

Replying to No. Date WED. G. 2. W. D. AUG. 5, 1925

1410: National Boundaries.

Present boundaries and boundary questions; treaties affecting boundaries.

Argentina and Bolivia.

On July 9, 1925 a pact was signed in the city of La Paz, Bolivia between representatives of Bolivia and Argentina, definitely establishing the frontier limits between the two republics, and, at the same time, putting an end to a conflict of some years standing regarding demarkation limits.

By virtue of the new arrangement the Argentine Republic takes over a tract of land which had hitherto been in dispute, while the Bolivian Republic receives the town of Yacuiba in recompense. Yacuiba was formerly an Argentine possession, but its inhabitants have been from time immemorial Bolivians in the great majority.

Argentina and Paraguay.

The treaty of 1876 between Paraguay and Argentina provided that the territory in the Chaco north of the Pilcomayo, and south of Bahia Negra should be divided in two parts; that between Bahia Negra and Rio Verde, and that between Rio Verde and the principal arm of the Pilcomayo, in which section is included Villa Occidental. The northern section should go to Paraguay, and the southern section should be submitted for arbitration to President Hayes of the United States.

In his decision of 1878, President Hayes awarded the country between Rio Verde and the Pilcomayo to Paraguay. The boundary between the two states being the principal branch of the Pilcomayo, which empties into the Paraguay River at 25°20' S. Lat. according to Mouchez' map, and 25° 23' S. Lat. according to Brayer's map. These maps were in use at that time. The place where the Pilcomayo empties into the Paraguay River is definitely defined, but some distance above the mouth, the river branches into two channels, which join again before reaching the Paraguay River. It is the country between these two branches, forming a large island, which has furnished the ground for the dispute. When the decision was rendered it was not determined which was the principal channel.

In 1905 both governments signed an agreement to appoint a joint commission to study the question. The composition of the joint commission was altered in 1907. Nothing was accomplished by these commissions as no agreement could be reached, the Argentine Government claiming the north branch of the Pilcomayo, and the Paraguayan Government claiming the south branch.

The Argentine Government claims that the question has changed from a judicial into a hydrographic and geographic one.

Argentina claims that the course of the Pilcomayo has altered considerably, and the boundary should not be decided as the course now is, but as it was in 1876, when the treaty of delimitation was signed.

Modern Argentine maps of the same scale superimposed upon those of Mouchez and Brayer, the maps in use in 1876, are claimed by Argentine authorities to show that the northern branch of the Pilcomayo was the principal branch in 1876, when the agreement between the two governments---based on President Hayes decision---was reached. The Argentine Government claims that this is the branch of the Pilcomayo which should be considered at the present date irrespective of how the channel of the river changes from year to year.

The Argentine Government having thus decided on the matter in 1921, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Honorio Pueyrredón, stated that his government would not cede an inch south of the northern branch of the Pilcomayo.

ARGENTINA (Geographic)

Subject: National Boundaries.

DEC 10 1925

Present boundaries; treaties affecting boundaries.

On July 9, 1935 a treaty was signed at La Paz, Bolivia definitely settling the question of limits between Argentina and Bolivia.

This question has been a troublesome one for many years, and a final solution of the problem was initiated at La Paz in 1918 by the Bolivian Government and the Argentine Minister, Dr. Laurentino Olascoaga, who was unable to settle the matter and was succeeded by Dr. Horacio Carrillo.

The treaty which has just been signed has still to be presented to the Argentine and Bolivian Congresses.

It is not really a new treaty, as that of 1889 still was in force, as modified by that of 1893. The new agreement simply clears up and interprets the old one.

The maps in use in Argentina and Bolivia when the treaty of 1889 was signed were very inaccurate, and the terms of the treaty as applied to the actual terrain were capable of various solutions, each country of course wishing to annex as much territory as possible, and to have a frontier line to respond to its own strategic purposes. Efforts were made by the two countries to settle the question finally in 1897, 1898, 1902, 1904 and 1911, but no decision was reached.

The boundary in dispute may be divided into three sectors: first, from Cerro Zapaleri to the western end of the Quebrada de La Quiaca; second, from La Quiaca to the Rio Bermejo; third, the vicinity of Yaouiba.

First sector: The treaty states that the boundary line shall follow the line of the highest peaks from Cerro Zapaleri by way of the mountain districts of Esmoraca (Serrania de Esmoraca) to the western side of the La Quiaca range (Quebrada de la Quiaca). The interpretation of this clause has been very difficult. The Serrania de Esmoraca is not in the general direction of La Quiaca as the maps of 1889 showed, and the Argentine interpretation showed the line making a large circle to the west passing through Serrania de Esmoraca to La Quiaca as described in the treaty. The Bolivian interpretation showed the boundary following the chain of mountains to the east of those shown in the Argentine maps, through Santa Catalina in Jujuy to La Quiaca. The territory included between these two lines includes about 10,000 square kilometers, and is a labyrinth of high peaks, and the final interpretation of the treaty is to divide the territory in dispute approximately in half -- the western half to Bolivia, and the eastern to Argentina.

Second sector: The treaty states that from the joining of Rio La Quiaca at the Quebrada de Yanalpa a straight line should be drawn from west to east to the summit of Cerro Porongal, and down the River Porongal to the other river which empties into the Bermejo River at the town of Bermejo. The practical application of this clause was impossible as the Quebrada de

From: M.A. Buenos Aires

Report #3550

Nov. 9, 1935.

ARGENTINA (Geographic)

Subject: National Boundaries.

Present boundaries; treaties affecting boundaries.

Yanalpa does not join the La Quiaca river under such a name. Cerro Porongal is 60 kilometers farther south than is shown on the maps used at that time (Moussy) in making the treaty, and the Porongal river, which rises in this ridge, does not empty into the Bermejo River, but into the Pescado which flows into the Bermejo at Oran, province of Salta. The final agreement has been that a line be drawn west to east from La Quiaca to a hill, Cerro Mecoya, and from this hill come down by the River Santa Rosa, which empties into the Bermejo in front of the town of that name. The new interpretation of the treaty saves Bolivia several small towns as Sococha, Salitre and Yanalpa.

Third Sector.

In the Rio Tarija treaty it was stated that the boundary line should follow the 22° parallel to the Rio Pilcomayo. In 1848 the town of Yacuiba was founded by Bolivians a fraction of a degree south of the 22nd parallel, as the capital of the Bolivian Chaco. A Bolivian Mission was then sent to Buenos Aires under doctor Iohazo in order to try and save this town for Bolivia. The Argentine Government gave its word that it would not keep Yacuiba. The line remains as stipulated in 1889, but eighteen square kilometers are ceded at Yacuiba. It is interesting to note that in agreements subsequent to 1889 Bolivia had been granted land in Yacuiba which reached up to 300 square kilometers.

G-2 REPORT

4-1 1925 2-48-187

INSTRUMENT NO. 7

SUBJECT... POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS... ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3530 Date September 29, 1925

Replying to No. 3530 G/2 W.D. NOV 2 - 1925 19

3000: Population and Social Conditions.

Growth in development of social system; effect on present characteristics of population, sociological order and standards.

On September 25th, the Argentine Senate approved a project giving woman far more rights than she has ever had in Argentina in the past. The project is still to be presented to the Deputies and it becomes, in due course, the law if these accept the provisions thereof.

A translation of the project of law approved by the Senate is as follows:

Art.1.- Any woman (spinster, divorcee or widow) over age has the same civil rights as those granted to men who are of age.

Art.2.- A married woman, of legal age can:

Maintain and manage the estate of her children by a former marriage.
Without necessity of Judicial or marital permission:
Follow any honest profession, employment or industry;
Administrate and dispose of her salary, wage, remuneration or profits of her profession; acquire with the income thereof all classes of property, and manage and dispose of same with full liberty.
Form part of civil and commercial associations by reason of her profession or enter cooperative societies;
Administrate and dispose of, in her own right, any properties acquired before marriage, those which she acquires after marriage by donation, inheritance or grant, and of those which correspond to her on the dissolution of the nuptial alliance;
Administrate the estates belonging to children by a previous marriage without the income or profits thereof figuring as income of the new matrimonial contract;
Accept or reject provisions which may be made by her parents;
Accept inheritances with the benefits of inventory;
Enter into civil or criminal lawsuits in matters affecting her person or property, or the person and property of her children, under age, of a previous marriage.

Art.3.- During the marriage, and while the nuptial contract exists, the wife may, by judicial consent, dispose of the property of her husband in order to provide for her sustenance and that of her children under 18 years of age, when the husband is not at liberty, through imprisonment of at least two years, if the wife has no other resources.

ARGENTINA(Pop. and Social Conditions)

Subject: Growth in development of social system, etc.

Art.4.- The property of the wife cannot be seized for the debts of the husband, nor can the property of the husband be seized for the debts of the wife.

Art.5.- One of the matrimonial parties can only be forced to respond for the debts of the other if it be proved that the latter was for the upkeep of the home, for the education of the children, or for the conservation of the combined properties.

Art.6.- Those clauses of the Civil Code or other laws which conflict with the present law are hereby annulled, and this will be considered a complement of the Civil Code.

Commenting on the passage of the above project of law by the Senate a local paper states that it marks the beginning of a new era in Argentine development, inasmuch as it tacitly implies the value of feminine collaboration in the work of the nation. Argentine women are to-day on a very high cultural plane. Broadly speaking the Argentine man has, with rare common sense, left to the women the social work of the nation; and they have fulfilled their trust wonderfully well.

As a piece of social legislation the new law is of absorbing interest, while for the married woman it is no exaggeration to declare that it is tantamount to a charter of liberty and equality.

From: M.A.Buenos Aires

Report #3530

Date Sept.29,1935

G-2 Report

413 2048-188
NOV 30
WAR DOCUMENT
2400

ARGENTINA (Population and Social Conditions)

Subject: Public Health and Sanitation.

NOV 28 1925

Practical interest manifested by the government; vital health statistics as far as available.

An extract from the President's message to Congress at its official opening June 13, 1925 explains briefly the health measures taken by the Government to improve the general sanitary conditions throughout the country. The country as a whole seems to be taking an increasing amount of interest in improved health conditions, but the government has been somewhat hampered in inaugurating new measures on account of lack of funds.

The extract from the President's message concerning the National Department of Hygiene is as follows:

"The defense of public health continues to be one of the chief interests of my government.

"The work of the National Department of Hygiene has been carried out to the extent permitted by the scanty resources provided by the Budget, which the Executive Power had planned to increase in this year in order to extend and improve its services.

"The new sections created by decree, within the funds granted by appropriation, have functioned with the disadvantage of the insufficiency of such funds.

"Thus the section for "Protection and aid to children" of such importance to fight high infant mortality in various federal provinces and territories has begun to work earnestly in Catamarca and Tucuman, and it will soon start in Jujuy, La Rioja, San Luis, Chaco and Misiones. However it will have to dispose of more money than it has at present to extent its benefits to other provinces and without being limited to capital cities. However, the start already made has proved its efficiency.

"It would be necessary for next year's budget to permit the founding of new services for prophylaxis against leprosy and other diseases of a secret nature, in provinces and Federal territories which as yet have no such services. The same measures must be taken to fight the diffusion of tuberculosis.

"Dispensaries will also be necessary in different parts of the country for children's diseases as well as hospitals, sanatoriums, etc. and for all these needs the sanction of a special law which The House is studying.

"The construction of a hospital for infectious diseases is also being studied for the city of Tucuman, and the Government of that province has offered to grant ground by the Microbiological Institute, therefore, a big centre for the study and care of the diseases of our subtropical zone could be established.

"The fight against malaria continues with the greatest enthusiasm, though this also suffers from lack of funds.

"Sanitation of the soil work has been carried out in various places. The work done in the cities of Salta, Jujuy (Capital) San Pedro and La Mendieta is about finished; that undertaken in Famaila is finished and active measures are being taken in

From: M.A. Buenos Aires

Report #3540

Date: Oct. 27/25

ARGENTINA (Population and Social Conditions)

Subject: Public Health and Sanitation.

the town of Monteros (Province of Tucuman.)

"The most eminent Italian professors have given a theoretical-practical series of lectures on malaria to a group of doctors, bacteriologists and engineers sent to Italy by our country.

"The campaign against hookworm is also being actively carried out in the province of Corrientes, and it will be necessary to extend this campaign to the neighboring provinces where the disease exists, though in a more limited proportion.

"The new section created for "Prophylaxis for trachoma and infectious diseases of the eyes" is doing good work against these afflictions in the northern provinces. Permanent and temporary dispensaries exist, and frequent trips are made by specialists and medical students, thereby permitting the successful fighting of these diseases, and enlisting the cooperation of local authorities, and the people.

"The Government sent a representative delegation to the Sanitation Conference at Havana, where affairs of real importance were discussed, and a sanitary code was sanctioned in the form of a convention, and this will be submitted shortly to the approval of the Hon. Senate.

"The Rockefeller Foundation has promised its assistance in the work of sanitation of Argentina under the direction of the National Sanitation authorities. This cooperation should be of the greatest efficacy in view of the means at the disposal of this institution, and in particular, the men of high scientific standing in its personnel, who have specialized in such work.

"The National Department of Hygiene has just held a National Conference on Milk Hygiene. Its work has been of real practical value, and will be useful to the authorities throughout the country in order to make out sanitary police regulations, and besides is of educative value for the people, due to diffusion of good principles in relation to so important an element of consumption.

"The information given, I believe will be helpful, and it is only just that it should be in detail, revealing as it does that from the very first the promise given that the public health of the Nation should have preferential attention has been kept by the Executive Power. This is considered as one of the first duties of patriotism and a most important administrative function. In order to accomplish these aims, it is trusted that the House will give its necessary collaboration authorizing the expenditure of the funds necessary.

G-2 Report

RECEIVED STAFF
MIL. INTEL. DIV.
APR 3 1926

WAR DEPARTMENT
2810

ARGENTINA----POPULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

Subject: Principal newspapers and important periodicals.

APR 2 - 1926

(a) Domestic-- favorable or unfavorable foreign attitude.

The Tacna and Arica situation has occupied a great deal of space in all the prominent newspapers since the decision was made by President Coolidge up to date. As a whole the press has not been critical toward the part played by the United States in the arbitration, but more criticisms have been made against Peru and Chile on account of the difficulties which General Pershing has had with the representatives of these countries. The general attitude has been the desire for a successful and speedy plebiscite according to President Coolidge's decision in order to strengthen the friendly relations of the South American countries.

Prior to the publication of the decision of President Coolidge in the Tacna-Arica arbitration the leading newspapers awaited the result with great interest. In a front page article which appeared in "La Nación" in March, 1925 it was stated that the prestige of the United States in Latin America would be vitally affected by the decision of this very important question, which for many years had vexed not only the two countries involved in the controversy, but the whole of South America. On the morning of the day the decision was announced, "La Nación" published a most sympathetic leading editorial reviewing the circumstances which led to the President of the United States being chosen arbitrator.

For a time "El Diario" wrote in a severely critical vein regarding the United States and its activities in South America, but later changed its tone, and has assumed a favorable attitude.

The "Buenos Aires Herald" on March 10, 1925 made the following among other statements:

"Looked at broadly, President Coolidge has in reality done nothing more than side-track the main issue by his call to a plebiscite. If we have any knowledge at all of Peruvian feeling it will be that their chance has been minimised by the projected vote, while Chile will come to realise that nine-tenths of the award favours her side. The more obvious course for an arbitrator would have been to hand down a direct decision, and not temporise with voting, however effective such a course might be, given different conditions.

"We suggest that President Coolidge should have adopted a stronger line than that taken by him in treating this matter. Having arrived at the point of compromise, having arrived at the stage where both countries were agreed on a neutral arbitrator, and having regarded the importance of the question from both the Chilean and Peruvian points of view, President Coolidge in his position as arbitrator, might well have marked out a course to pursue instead of throwing the onus upon the very peoples who are in dispute."

On March 18, 1925 Ambassador Riddle cabled:

"The leading papers such as 'La Nación', 'La Prensa' and 'El Diario' praise the decision as impartial and painstaking showing the way to a peaceful solution, and thus strengthening

From:..... Report #3595

March 8, 1926.

ARGENTINA-----POPULATION AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

Subject: Principal newspapers and important periodicals.(a) Domestic-----Favorable and unfavorable foreign attitude.

the principle of arbitration, which will greatly benefit all countries and enhance the prestige of the United States.

'El Diario' is extremely outspoken in criticizing the manner in which Peru is reported to have received the news. The English language papers are divided; the 'Herald' bitterly critical of so-called Chilean victory, while the 'Standard' considers the decision on the whole favorable to Peru.

On March 24th a short editorial appeared in 'La Nación' with regard to the designation of General Pershing to head the Commission of the plebiscite wherein it is stated that this appointment was considered to be an especially felicitous one.

On April 3rd 'La Prensa' published an editorial in which the reported attitude of Peru toward the Tacna-Arica decision was commented upon. While the tone of the article was restrained, it pointed out that inasmuch as under the prescribed conditions the decision was to be accepted as final, it would probably be useless to make any proposal for altering its provisions in order to obtain better guarantees for the plebiscite, besides which it would leave an unfortunate impression harmful to the prestige of the whole principle of arbitration.

The opinion expressed by "La Prensa" seems to be quite general, most of the comment being to the effect that Peru would do better for herself, and for the whole continent by unconditionally accepting the award. At the same time no one appears to be surprised that such a course was not followed, in view of the local pressure with which it is presumed that the Peruvian Government has to contend.

On April 11th, 1925 "La Nación" published an editorial wherein it remarked that the essential point about the business lies in the definite statement made by the Lima Government to the effect that, in spite of the errors which, to its thinking, the award contains, Peru in accord with its invariable policy of complying with its international undertakings, will duly respect it and proceed to carry out the part that corresponds to itself. Mr. Coolidge's award, which is designed to put an end to the dispute, as lengthy as it has been dangerous for the peace of this part of the world, will soon be put into practice as there is little doubt, "La Nación" declares that, once the situation created by its request has been cleared up, the Peruvian Government will hasten to appoint the third member of the Plebiscite Commission, so that this may commence the performance of its duties as quickly as possible.

Although letters and statements made by Señor Edwards were given great prominence by press in telegraphic news, the only important editorial comment appearing since November 28th was in "La Prensa" on November 30th which stated delays and difficulties would have been avoided if there had existed in Washington and at Arica the spirit of diplomacy and keen comprehension seen at Locarno. While admiring General Pershing it feared his staff might be lacking in prestige and ability. It affirms however, that it is not pessimistic and believes it represents Argentine public opinion in saying that a road to a just settlement must be found. Some other papers

From:..... Report #3595

March 8, 1926.

M.A. Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA-----POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Subject: Principal news sources and important periodicals.

(a) Domestic-----favorable and unfavorable foreign attitude.

commented during previous week in general terms upon the situation, none criticizing United States representatives.

Associated and United Press correspondents expressed their views, which though given quite independently, coincide in considering there has been surprisingly little reaction so far in local papers probably because they are still uncertain what attitude to take, and possibly because Argentine public opinion is awaiting further developments before becoming concrete.

Editorials appearing in "La Razón" on November 25, 1925, "La Nación" November 27 and "La Prensa" on December 1, 1925 all coincide in criticizing the attitude assumed by the Chilean delegate. The general opinion in all circles seems to be that there were not sufficient grounds for the allegations of Señor Edwards. Although it is realized that they were made under instructions, and principally for internal political reasons, it is felt that on the whole they were unfortunate and ill-judged. Argentina, while presumably much interested in the developments affecting the disputed territory, is apparently determined not to become involved by taking one side or the other.

In early December it was noted that although the Tacna-Arica question continued to occupy a prominent position in the news column of the Buenos Aires press, and although editorial comment was comparatively infrequent and distinctly guarded, the tendency being to await developments rather than to take sides at this time, there are some expressions to the effect that if the arbitration is a failure the responsibility will rest squarely upon Chile. In all quarters the absolute impartiality of General Pershing is recognized, and there is no disposition to criticize him in any way. It is, however, pointed out that in spite of the technical non-participation of the United States Government, the Arbitrator and the head of the Plebiscitary Commission cannot be regarded as acting apart therefrom.

The rumors that the plebiscite may be held under the supervision of the United States troops has not received much attention in the local press, and there is apparently no disposition to credit them. It would perhaps be too much to say that Argentine opinion is optimistic with regard to the peaceable outcome of the pending arbitration, but there is a general hope for its success as a matter vitally affecting this whole Continent.

From R. A. M. B. B.
M. A. Buenos Aires

Report #3595

March 8, 1926.